

Spiritual Foundations: Hebrews 6:1-2

Introduction:

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at the foundations of our faith as believers in Jesus Christ. The K4C will be doing their own foundations study giving us all the opportunity to learn and live out these truths together.

The key verse we will be looking at over the next few weeks is Hebrews 6:1-2. However, before we look at this passage I will put it into context with the previous verses and lay out a simple introduction for us to work with. The writer of Hebrews is attempting to call the recipients of this letter – Jewish believers – to a mature walk with God. They are told in Hebrews 5:12 - “you have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others.” However, they were stuck in the basics of age-old Jewish thought and traditional doctrine. In order for them to grow and understand in their relationship with the High Priest Jesus Christ, they would have to move out of their comfortable and traditional way of life.

The writer then compares their situation to that of little babies who need to drink milk and cannot eat solid food. Those who only understand the A B C's of Christianity are babes in Christ. Such a person cannot handle the word of righteousness skillfully. However, when one has reached maturity we do not expect them to live on the baby food. The challenge was for these Jewish believers to mature and grow in their understanding of the teaching of Jesus Christ. They should grow in their knowledge of God. They ought to study and grow in their understanding not only of the basics but also of the higher principles of Christian faith, thereby becoming able to teach others.

Hebrews 6:1-2

Now the writer of Hebrews describes leaving the first principles of our faith and then explains these foundational teachings that believers should understand. **Hebrews 6:1-2 - Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.**

Firstly, the Bible reveals that we are to move on from the elementary teaching of Christ. We are to “be borne forward” implying an active exertion accompanied with desire to press on in our faith. Being “born-again” calls us to press forward in our faith in Christ. What are we to move forward from, the “elementary” teaching of Christ; the “principles of the doctrine”, the “word of the beginning” or the discussion of the “first principles of Christianity”. Elementary defined can be seen through several other words: basic, beginning, earliest, essential or fundamental.

Is there anyone here this morning in Elementary School? How many of you want to stay in your school forever?

Are there any fathers or mothers here today? How many of you want your children to stay in diapers forever?

You get the picture. We are born to grow. We are born-again to grow in spirituality and truthfulness while moving towards maturity. The exhortation is to go on from the lessons of Christian childhood to those of manhood in Christ.

Secondly, the writer of Hebrews tell us not lay the foundation of our faith again. To lay the foundation once is enough, if it is laid right. These six principles are the foundation of Christian life, but we must build higher and higher upon them.

John Calvin stated it this way, "**As in building a house one must never leave the foundation: yet to be always laboring in 'laying the foundation' would be ridiculous**".

In Conclusion:

We must all understand that it is the desire of God for us to mature; "like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." We are to move onto maturity by clearly understanding in knowledge and experience the foundational teachings of Jesus Christ. The verb "go on to maturity" is found in the passive tense, and could be interpreted as "let us be carried on to maturity or completeness." This form suggests a humble yieldedness to a God who is able to mature and complete what we are incapable of. We are told not to lay the foundation again, once established it is enough for us to build our lives upon...

Why are these six spiritual foundations so important? In the days of Jesus and the time the letter was written to the Hebrew Christians, there were various teachings leading people away from the doctrines of Christ. The pagans were steeped in idolatry, Emperor worship and worshiping many gods. The Jewish people struggles with genealogies and disputes over the Law.

The same is true in our time. We live in such a spiritual conglomeration of thoughts we need to have a strong Biblical foundation. We have various religions telling how to live well and get to heaven. Islam tells us to worship Allah or else. The New Age movement tells us to worship many gods, even yourself. Then we have the cults who distort the truth leading many astray.

The writer of Hebrews is presenting the truth to those who were wandering in their faith. He reminds us about the principle doctrines of Christ that lead us onto maturity or perfection, all by the grace of God working in us. To some degree, these six teachings became the catechism for the early church; a book or statement giving a brief summary of the basic principles of Christianity in question-and-answer form. These instructions were given in a few statements and communicated to the people seeking after the ways of God. The interactive format was question-and-answer allowing the poor and unlearned to also grow in their faith with Christ.

Next week we will begin to look at these six doctrines of our faith.

- Repentance from acts that lead to death
- Faith in God
- Instruction about baptisms
- The laying on of hands
- The resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgment.

In Application:

Next week we will look at the first two doctrines of Christ; repentance from acts that lead to death and faith in God. Here is a home work assignment for you during the week so that we can be interactive in the coming sermons on the doctrines of Jesus.

- **In your own words define repentance from acts that lead to death.**
- **Think of one Scripture that highlights your thoughts.**
- **What does faith in God mean to you?**
- **Give us a practical example of your faith in God?**